CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (original) A lock, comprising:

(a) a rigid, substantially incompressible lock body, said lock body being generally block-shaped, and said lock body defining an opening and a pair of channels in communication with said opening and in communication with opposite sides of said lock body;

(b) a retainer having a hinge portion and a pair of legs terminating in respective ends, said hinge portion being receivable within said opening and each of said pair of legs being receivable within a respective one of said pair of channels, and said ends of said legs extending beyond said sides of said lock body; and

(c) said lock body having a recess in communication with said opening for prying said retainer out of said lock body.

16. (original) A lock, comprising:

(a) a rigid, substantially incompressible lock body, said lock body being generally block-shaped, and said lock body defining an opening and a pair of channels in communication with said opening and in communication with opposite sides of said lock body;

(b) a retainer having a hinge portion and a pair of legs terminating in respective ends, said hinge portion being receivable within said opening and each of said pair of legs being receivable within a respective one of said pair of channels, and said ends of said legs extending beyond said sides of said lock body; and

(c) said lock body having a longitudinal take-up member.

PAGE 3/15 * RCVD AT 12/22/2005 4:15:22 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:5037786635 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-12

17. (canceled).

18. (currently amended) A lock assembly for an excavating bucket or the like[[,]] comprising:

(a) a ~~first~~ wear member, a ~~second~~ base member adapted to receive and mount the wear member, and a lock to releasably hold the wear member to the base member;

(b) said ~~first~~ wear member ~~and said second member~~ being movable longitudinally with respect to ~~one another~~ the base member into coupling engagement therewith, and said ~~first~~ wear member and said ~~second~~ base member having respective engaging surfaces to resist transverse movement of said ~~first~~ wear member ~~and said second member~~ with respect to ~~one another~~ the base member when said ~~first~~ wear member and said ~~second~~ base member are in coupling engagement;

(c) said ~~first~~ wear member and said ~~second~~ base member each having a lock-engaging wall, and said ~~second~~ wear member defining an opening between said lock-engaging wall of said ~~first~~ wear member and said lock-engaging wall of said ~~second~~ base member, said lock being receivable through said opening when said ~~first~~ wear member and said ~~second~~ base member are in said coupling engagement to resist relative longitudinal movement ~~between~~ of said ~~first~~ wear member ~~and~~ to said ~~second~~ base member;

(d) said lock comprising a lock body and a retainer, said lock body defining a channel extending through the lock body and defining a first opening in ~~having an outer end in communication with~~ a side of said lock body;

PAGE 4/15 * RCVD AT 12/22/2005 4:15:22 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:5037786635 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-12

(e) said retainer being receivable at least partially within said channel, so that a portion of said retainer is selectively extensible from the first opening to an interfering position beyond said side so as to interfere with removal of said lock body from said opening; and

(f) said channel ~~lock body~~ defining a second ~~an external~~ opening in the lock body separate from said ~~outer end of said channel communicating with said channel internally of said lock body~~ first opening, said retainer being accessible by a user via said second opening to be moved ~~movable~~ internally of said lock body in a direction toward said second ~~external~~ opening so as to retract said portion of said retainer from said interfering position when said first member and said second member are in said coupling engagement.

Claims 19 and 20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended) A lock assembly in accordance with claim 18 wherein, ~~comprising:~~

~~(a) a first member, a second member, and a lock;~~

~~(b) said first member and said second member being movable longitudinally with respect to one another into coupling engagement, and said first member and said second member having respective engaging surfaces to resist transverse movement of said first member and said second member with respect to one another when said first member and said second member are in coupling engagement;~~

~~(c) said first member and said second member each having a lock engaging wall, and said second member defining an opening between said lock engaging wall of said first member and said lock engaging wall of said second member, said lock being receivable through~~

PAGE 5/15 * RCVD AT 12/22/2005 4:15:22 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:5037786635 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-12

~~said opening when said first member and said second member are in said coupling engagement to resist relative longitudinal movement between said first member and said second member;~~

~~(d) said lock comprising a lock body and a retainer, said lock body defining a channel in communication with a side of said lock body;~~

~~(e) said retainer being receivable at least partially within said channel, so that a portion of said retainer is selectively extensible beyond said side so as to interfere with removal of said lock body from said opening; and~~

~~(f) both~~ said retainer and said lock body ~~being~~ are removable as a unit from said ~~first~~ wewar member and said ~~second~~ base member through said opening in said ~~second~~ wear member when said ~~first~~ wear member and said ~~second~~ base member are in said coupling engagement.

22. (currently amended) The lock assembly of claim ~~21~~ 18 wherein said retainer is removable through said opening without concurrent removal of said lock body therefrom.

Claims 23 and 24. (canceled).

25. (currently amended) The lock assembly of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 18[[-24]] wherein said lock body is removable through said opening in said ~~second~~ wear member along a path that does not require significant displacement of soil fines to remove said lock body from said opening in said second member.

26. (currently amended) The lock assembly of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 18[[-24]] wherein said lock body substantially fills said opening in said second member.

Claims 27-37 (canceled).

PAGE 6/15 * RCVD AT 12/22/2005 4:15:22 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:5037786635 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-12

38. (original) A lock, comprising:

(a) a rigid, substantially incompressible lock body selectively receivable into a member to be locked, said lock body defining an external opening and a pair of channels communicating internally with said external opening and having outer ends separate from said external opening communicating with opposite sides of said lock body;

(b) a retainer receivable through said external opening having a hinge portion at least partially receivable within said external opening and a pair of legs, each receivable within a respective one of said pair of channels and selectively extensible and retractable with respect thereto so that a portion of said retainer is selectively extensible to an interfering position beyond a respective one of said opposite sides of said lock body so as to interfere with removal of said lock body from said member; and

(c) said retainer being movable internally of said lock body in a direction toward said external opening so as to retract said portion of said retainer from said interfering position when said lock body is within said member.

39. (original) A lock, comprising:

(a) a rigid, substantially incompressible lock body selectively receivable into a member to be locked, said lock body defining an external opening and a pair of channels communicating internally with said opening and with opposite sides of said lock body;

(b) a retainer receivable through said external opening, said retainer having a hinge portion at least partially receivable within said external opening and a pair of legs, each receivable within a respective one of said pair of channels and selectively extensible and

PAGE 7/15 * RCVD AT 12/22/2005 4:15:22 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:5037786635 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-12

retractable with respect thereto to an interfering position beyond a respective one of said opposite sides of said lock body so as to interfere with removal of said lock body from said member; and

(c) said portion of said retainer being retractable from said interfering position in response to a pulling force exerted on said portion of said retainer through said external opening when said lock body is within said member.

Claims 40-45. (canceled).

46. (New) A lock assembly for excavating equipment comprising:

a base member fixed to the excavating equipment;

a wear member adapted to be received over the base member for mounting to the excavating equipment, the wear member including a hole; and

a lock received into the hole in the wear member to releasably hold the wear member to the base member, the lock including a body having a channel formed with two open ends, and a retainer movably received in the channel between a retaining position and a release position, the retainer having a first portion that projects out of a first of the open ends of the body to prevent release of the lock from the hole and a second portion accessible by a user via a second of the open ends to move the retainer to the release position wherein the first portion is retracted to permit removal of the lock from the hole in the wear member.

47. (new) A lock assembly in accordance with claim 46 wherein the lock further includes a take-up member to tighten the fit of the wear member on the base member.

48. (new) A lock assembly in accordance with claim 47 wherein the wear member

PAGE 8/15 * RCVD AT 12/22/2005 4:15:22 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:5037786635 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-12

moves along an axis to mount on the wear member, and wherein take-up member applies pressure in the axial direction.

49. (new) A lock assembly in accordance with claim 48 wherein the lock body includes a third open end, and wherein the retainer includes a third portion that projects from the third open end in the retaining position to further prevent the lock from being removed from the hole in the wear member.

50. (new) A lock assembly in accordance with claim 46 wherein the lock body includes a third open end, and wherein the retainer includes a third portion that projects from the third open end in the retaining position to further prevent the lock from being removed from the hole in the wear member.

51. (new) A lock assembly for excavating equipment comprising:

a base member fixed to the excavating equipment;

a wear member adapted to be received over the base member for mounting to the excavating equipment, the wear member including a hole; and

a lock received into the hole in the wear member to releasably hold the wear member to the base member, the lock including a body having a channel formed with two open ends, a retainer movably received in the channel between a retaining position where the retainer holds the lock within the hole in the wear member and a release position where the retainer permits the lock to be withdrawn from the hole, and a take up member adjustable secured to the body to tighten the fit of the wear member on the excavating equipment.

PAGE 9/15 * RCVD AT 12/22/2005 4:15:22 PM [Eastern Standard Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-6/34 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:5037786635 * DURATION (mm-ss):04-12